Half a century of educating children

JOANNE VELLA

OLD friends and colleagues embraced and reminisced as current Cabramatta High School students celebrated their school's 50th anniversary with Bollywood rock 'n' roll and the unveiling of a new computer room.

Founding students rubbed shoulders with the current crop during three days of celebrations which kicked off on Friday with a cultural concert featuring folk, Cambodian, African and Indian dancing.

Founding students purchased a display cabinet, laden with donated memorabilia, to take pride of place in the school's foyer.

Festivities continued over the weekend with open days and tours of a history museum which was set up to commemorate five decades of public education.

Professor of physics at Queensland University Norman Heckenberg, the inaugural dux of Cabramatta High, was one of the several founding students who returned to the Aladore Ave campus for the milestone.

The 1962 graduate, whose family was honoured with the suburb Heckenberg named after them, delivered a speech at a morning assembly.

"I suggested to the students that they would be at the centenary in 50 years' time and asked them to make the most of the opportunities that the school gives them," Prof Heckenberg said.

More than 250 former students and teachers packed a Cabramatta restaurant on Friday night for a reunion.

Hundreds more filed through the school on Saturday and Sunday to mark the occasion.

Students perform various dances as part of the school's celebration activities.

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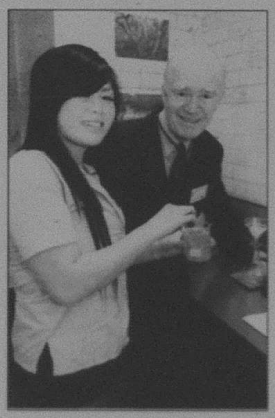

Year 12 student Thuy Nguyen, with former student and dux of the school, Professor Norman Heckenberg.

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TRANSLATION: This story is translated in Vietnamese at www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

Moment of recognition: former student Silvija Karaberis (nee Jajic), from the class of 1988, is recognised by her former teacher, Pat Wagner (right), who taught at Cabramatta High School from 1980 to 1988.